

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

June 2005



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

May unemployment rates do not fall as fast as usual

After two months of falling more quickly than usual, **Adams County's** unemployment rate fell more slowly than usual. From May through November of 2004, the rate was usually about 1.4-1.5 percentage points above its typical level; from January through May of 2005, it has generally been more like 2 percentage points above its typical level. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate is growing a bit faster this spring than last, but it fell so much faster last autumn than the previous autumn that it remains below its year-ago level.

Instead of peaking in March and April, as it typically would, **Forest County's** unemployment rate peaked in February and fell faster than usual in March and April. The slower-than-usual decline in May is better understood in this context. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate remains below its year-ago level, but by a narrower margin than recent months' estimates. The construction employment estimate continues to follow last year's general trends.

Langlade County's unemployment rate remains below its typical level, as it has been since November. Despite recent months' gains, employment estimates for leisure & hospitality and for construction remain below their respective year-ago levels.

The month of May was the first since October and the second in the last twelve when **Lincoln County's** unemployment rate was above its typical

level. Last May, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was 70 jobs or 6.7 percent above its year-ago level. This May, the estimate is 30 jobs or 2.8 percent below its year-ago level. Despite recent gains, the manufacturing employment estimate remains below its year-ago level, as it has been since last July.

Marathon County's unemployment rate rose slightly instead of falling as it typically does in May. This is the first time since October that the rate has been higher than its typical level.

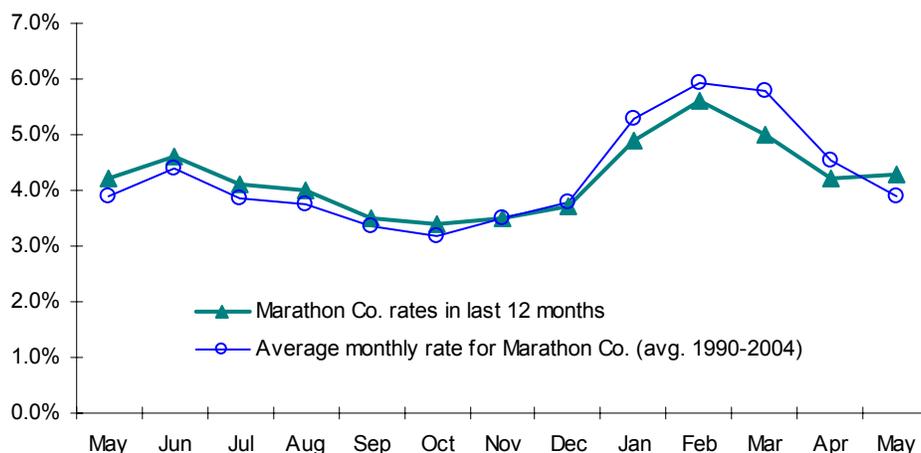
margin consistent with much of the last year. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate is following the same seasonal pattern as last year, albeit at a slightly higher level.

Portage County's unemployment rate fell much faster than usual in March, but a bit slower than usual in April and May. Employment estimates for construction and leisure & hospitality usually increase in spring. Both sectors have seen changes largely attributable to seasonal fluctuation much like last spring.

In **Vilas County** the March and April unemployment rates were below their typical levels and the May rate was above its typical level by a margin consistent with rates seen between last May and this February. Last July, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was 570 jobs or 19 percent higher than its year-ago level. In May of 2005, it was 227 jobs or 13 percent below its year-ago level.

The **Wood County** unemployment rate rose instead of falling as it usually does in May. It is currently as far above its typical level as it has been at any point in the last 12 months. The transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimate is at the highest level it has reached in the last year; it is also as far above its year-ago level as it has been in the last 12 months. The same is roughly true of the financial activities employment estimate.

Unemployment rates – not seasonally adjusted



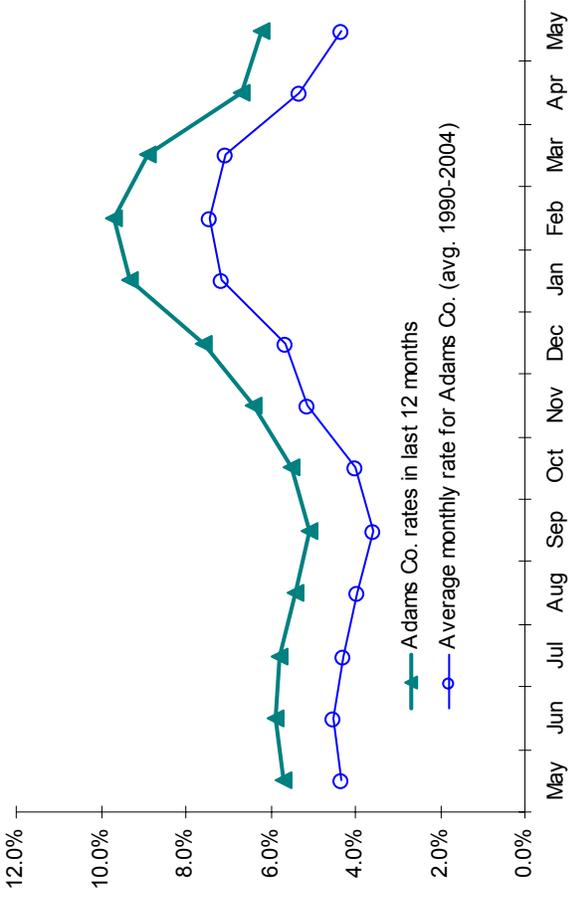
The leisure & hospitality employment estimate fell more quickly in autumn of 2004 than in the autumn of 2003, and it has remained below its year-ago level all winter and spring. Since September, the transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimate has followed the same trend it followed twelve months earlier, albeit at a slightly higher level.

After two months of faster-than-typical decreases, **Oneida County's** unemployment rate fell more slowly than it usually does in May. The rate remains above its typical level by a

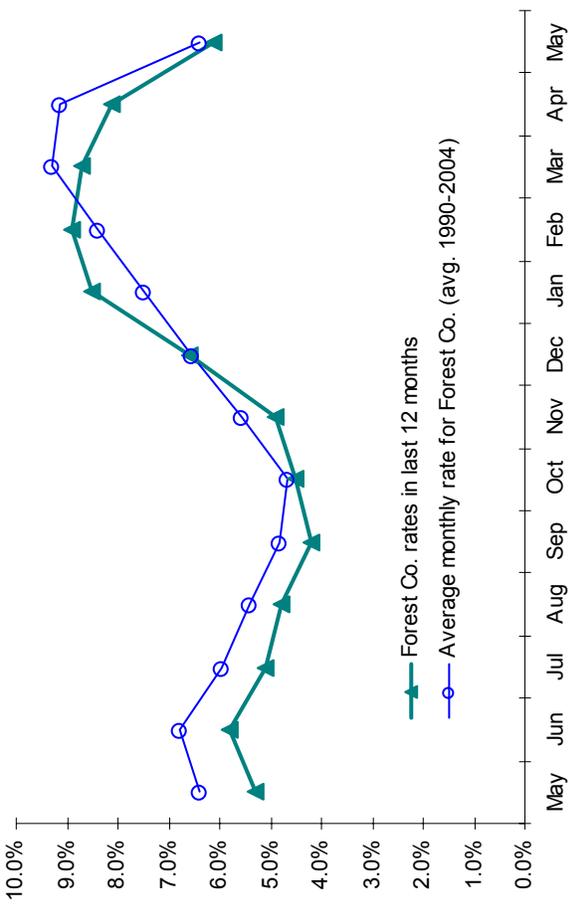
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted															
	Wisconsin		Adams County		Forest County		Langlade County		Lincoln County						
	May 2005	1-month change	1-month change	1-year change	May 2005	1-month change	1-month change	1-year change	May 2005	1-month change	1-year change				
Total jobs, all industries*	2,844,500	37,200	27,000	4,300	150	10	3,600	210	-20	8,100	220	70	11,900	230	-180
Const., min'g & nat. resources	139,000	9,400	5,400	260	20	20	180	60	20	490	120	-10	420	30	-20
Manufacturing	503,300	5,100	2,900	410	-10	10	370	10	10	1,620	20	100	3,500	60	-110
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	428,600	3,700	-1,000	540	10	-20	310	20	0	1,550	30	-10	1,610	40	-30
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	109,300	1,200	1,500	130	0	0	160	10	0	400	10	10	370	20	0
Financial activities	157,700	400	-500	90	0	0	110	0	0	340	0	30	880	10	40
Education & health services	384,400	1,400	10,000	550	0	10	370	-30	-10	970	0	10	1,060	0	-10
Leisure & hospitality	262,000	14,700	5,700	620	130	-50	210	50	-40	820	50	-10	1,070	60	-30
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	437,300	1,400	2,300	450	0	20	220	10	0	730	10	-10	990	10	10
Government	422,900	-100	700	1,260	10	20	1,660	90	0	1,150	-10	-40	1,990	20	-30
Civilian Labor Force**	3,032,400	610	-17,250	9,500	110	70	5,000	110	-90	10,800	70	50	15,700	10	-220
Employed	2,893,500	5,300	-9,410	8,900	150	20	4,700	200	-120	10,300	200	220	14,900	110	-240
Unemployed	138,800	-4,720	-7,840	590	-40	50	310	-90	30	550	-130	-170	860	-100	20
Unemployment rate	4.6%	-0.1%	-0.2%	6.2%	-0.5%	0.5%	6.1%	-2.0%	0.8%	5.1%	-1.2%	-1.6%	5.5%	-0.6%	0.2%
	Marathon County		Oneida County		Portage County		Vilas County		Wood County						
	May 2005	1-month change	1-year change	May 2005	1-month change	1-year change	May 2005	1-month change	1-year change	May 2005	1-month change	1-year change	May 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	70,900	500	400	18,700	750	-160	34,600	330	210	8,400	740	-260	42,900	410	-10
Const., min'g & nat. resources	3,100	200	0	1,400	170	10	1,350	150	30	980	150	30	1,640	140	30
Manufacturing	18,200	100	600	1,290	0	-90	4,500	-10	-240	310	10	-30	6,700	20	-390
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	13,100	-100	-100	4,300	110	30	5,700	10	210	1,470	100	20	6,000	20	-170
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,900	100	100	460	30	-10	1,780	50	-50	150	0	20	3,400	50	160
Financial activities	5,000	0	0	540	10	20	4,000	-10	-60	360	10	30	1,220	0	70
Education & health services	7,600	0	200	3,600	40	-70	3,600	10	270	690	0	0	10,500	50	230
Leisure & hospitality	5,000	200	-200	2,300	320	40	3,200	160	-10	1,730	380	-230	3,100	120	10
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	7,900	0	-100	2,300	70	20	4,400	10	40	690	70	30	4,900	-90	90
Government	8,100	0	-100	2,500	20	-110	6,100	-30	20	2,000	10	-140	5,400	110	-40
Civilian Labor Force**	73,400	-130	40	20,300	320	-290	40,400	-110	-170	11,500	440	-240	40,200	90	-480
Employed	70,200	-190	-10	19,200	580	-250	38,600	-30	-40	10,900	700	-210	37,800	-50	-650
Unemployed	3,100	70	50	1,020	-260	-40	1,780	-80	-140	590	-260	-30	2,400	140	170
Unemployment rate	4.3%	0.1%	0.1%	5.0%	-1.4%	-0.1%	4.4%	-0.2%	-0.3%	5.1%	-2.6%	-0.2%	5.9%	0.3%	0.4%

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.
 *Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.
 For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barrollnet@dwd.state.wi.us, or see <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oes/>.

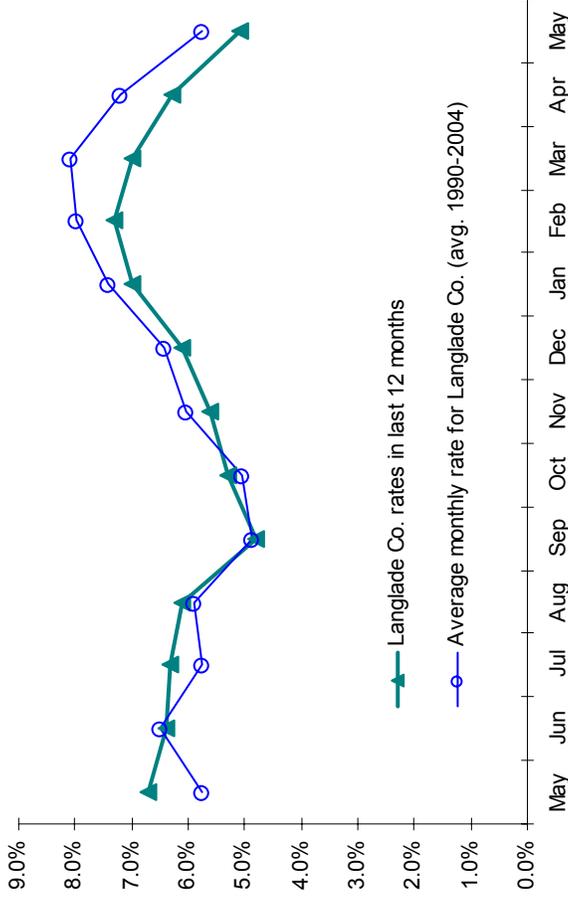
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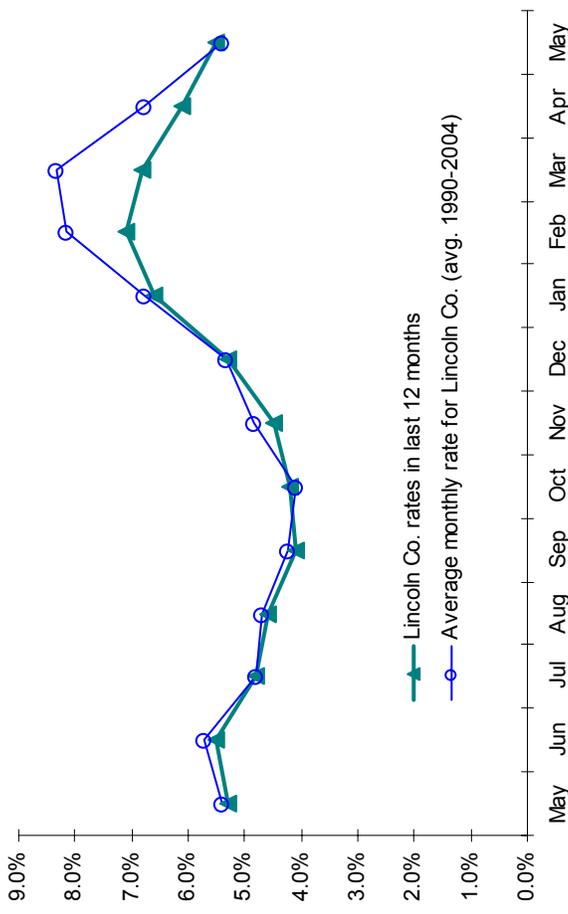
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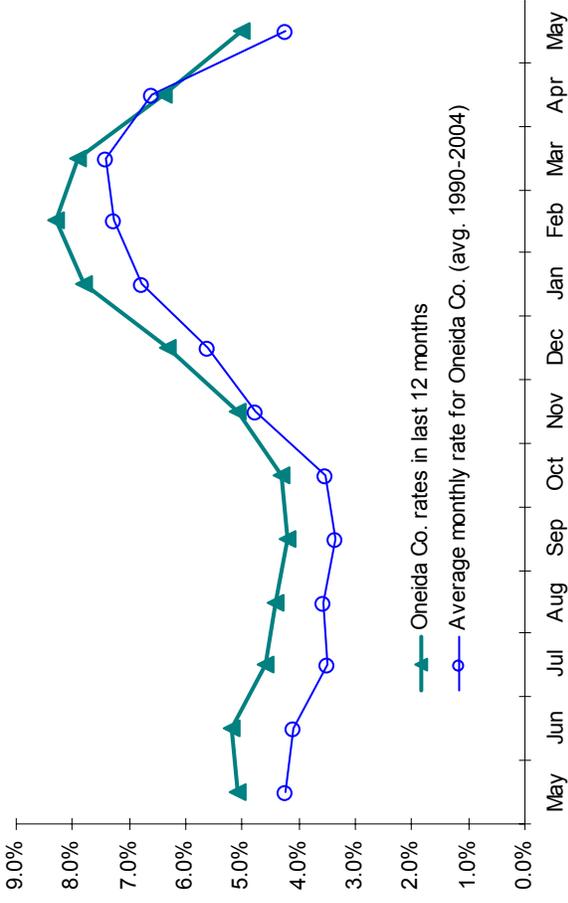
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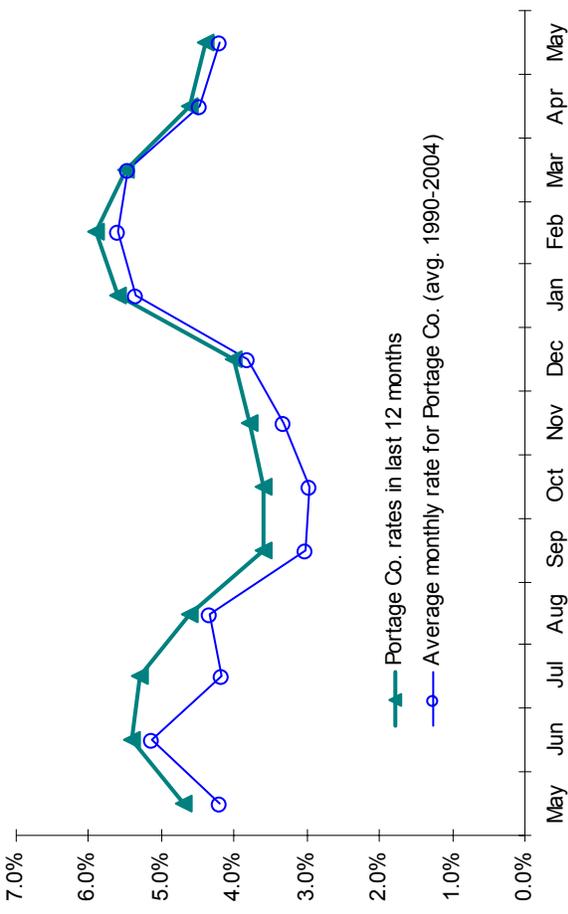
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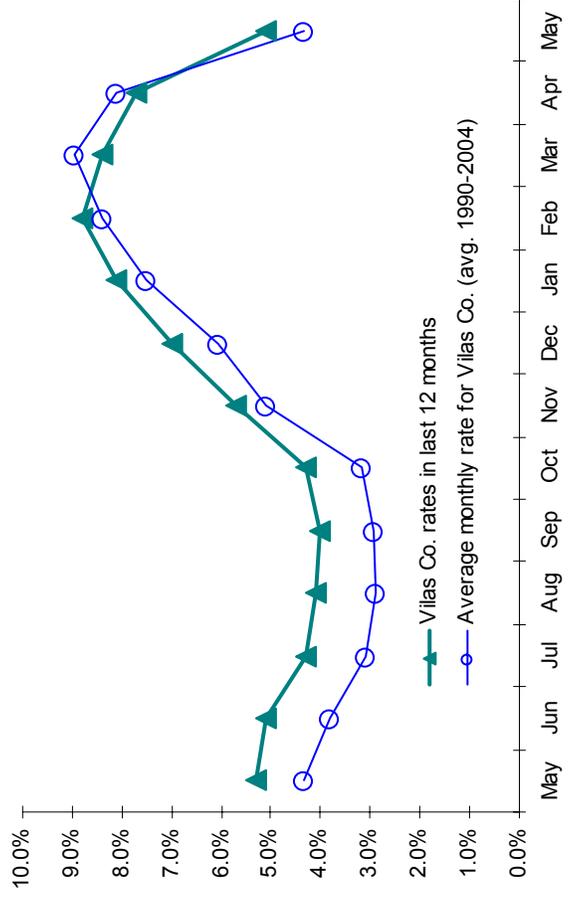
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